



---

## **South Florida Water Management District**

---

### **BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

October 22, 2010

9:00 AM

Collier County Government Center  
3301 Tamiami Trail East, Bldg F, Commission Chamber  
Naples, FL 34112

Members Present:

**Charles J. Dauray, Chair**

**Pam Mac'Kie**

**John Sorey**

**John Vaughn**

Members Absent:

**Noah Standridge**

**Fred Thomas**

1. **Call to Order** - Charles Dauray, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Charles Dauray at 9:00 a.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Charles Dauray, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board

Ms. Pamela Mac'Kie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of Minutes for following meeting held at City of Naples' City Hall Council Chamber:**

- August 27, 2010, Regular Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting

Motion made by John Vaughn, seconded by Pam Mac'Kie to Approve the following item(s): 3

Vote called. Voting yes: John Vaughn, Pam Mac'Kie, Charles J. Dauray, John Sorey. Motion passed.

4. **Agenda Addendum**

No Agenda Addendum to the Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting of October 22, 2010.

**5. Abstentions by Board Members from Items on the Agenda**

No Abstentions by Board Members from Items on the Agenda of Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting of October 22, 2010.

**New Business/Workshop**

**6. Update on Collier County Watershed Management Plan (Presentation by Mac Hatcher, Senior Environmental Specialist, Stormwater and Environmental Planning Section, Collier County/CDES)**

Mr. Mac Hatcher gave an update on the development of the Collier County Watershed Management Plan. He reported that the plan was tentatively scheduled to be completed by December 2010; but due to additional stakeholder meetings scheduled for the early part of 2011, the completion of the plan has been postponed.

Mr. Hatcher reported that objectives of the project are to develop watershed management plans that will help protect estuaries and wetland systems to restore historical water quantity and estuarine discharges, improve water quality within the watersheds and estuaries and to also address flood control and water supply issues. Specific tasks of the project are to update the Big Cypress Basin hydrologic/hydraulic computer model, evaluate watershed and estuarine existing conditions with water quantity, quality and natural resources, and to prepare the Watershed Management Plan.

The most common impairment in the general findings in the watersheds and estuaries were Dissolved Oxygen, fecal coliform bacteria, and Iron found at Lake Trafford, North Golden Gate Estates, Fakahatchee Strand, Naples Bay and Wiggins Pass.

Mr. Dauray asked, "if the City of Naples and Collier County are not able to meet EPA standards, are they communicating with EPA?" The District and Basin are committed to support Collier County's development.

Ms. Mac'Kie indicated that, after hearing Mr. Hatcher's presentation, the Board needs to decide on priorities. Mr. Tears said that the Board will establish priorities after viewing the presentations during this board meeting and also the workshop in the afternoon. The process will be talked about at the workshop.

Ms. Mac'Kie asked, with the economy the way it is and budget cuts everywhere, has the County cut stormwater projects and Mr. Tears indicated yes there have been cuts in the stormwater projects.

**Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects**

**7. Update on Picayune Strand Restoration Project (Janet Starnes, Project Manager, Ext. 7735)**

Ms. Janet Starnes, Project Manager of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project gave a brief description of the historical background that caused problems in the Picayune Strand due to 279 miles of roads and 48 miles of canals constructed on 55,000 acres by a private developer in the late 60's which resulted in over-drainage of Northern and Southern Golden Gate Estates. Loss of Cypress Forests and plant species changed, along with quality of animal habitat having declined. A summary of benefits indicates that this project restores freshwater flows to estuaries, restores upland/wetland habitat in watershed, restores pre-drainage watershed flow pattern to a sheet flow condition, increases groundwater levels, restores habitat for endangered/threatened species and also provides for better fire management. Completion of Phase 1 funded by the District consisted of seven miles of Prairie Canal that was filled, 65 miles of roadway removed, 17 culverts were constructed to restore natural sheetflow and will result in more than 13,000 acres of restored and enhanced habitat. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have agreed to take over the project and will complete the remaining construction. The project includes construction of three pumpstations with spreader canals, plugging of 40 miles of canals and removal of 227 miles of roads.

Mr. Vaughn asked how many pumps will the pumpstation have and Ms. Starnes answered 5 pumps.

Mr. Vaughn asked about the melalueca removal and Ms. Starnes reported that the District is implementing a pretreatment. At this time there is very little melalueca and before it gets out of hand, the District will have to be very aggressive in keeping it under control.

Mr. Vaughn asked if the sabal palms could be removed and sold. Ms. Starnes said the Division of Forestry, a land manager, is actively working with District to relocate the sabal palms.

Mr. Vaughn asked about the private lands and the Six-Ls levee, who's paying for the levees. Ms. Starnes reported that the District is going to build a better stormwater system, rather than a levee, and the District will then have to build and maintain them.

**8. Update on the Southern CREW (Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed) (Janet Starnes, Project Manager, Ext. 7735)**

Ms. Starnes reported that in 1992 widespread flooding prompted the District and Lee County to examine hydrology of the area. The goal was to improve or restore the hydrology and ecology of the project area, along with resulting benefits to upstream and downstream lands. Six tasks outlined the 1999 Environmental Assessment, by replacing the Imperial Bonita Estates Bridge, the Kehl Canal Weir, designed a new operating schedule for the new weir, purchased up to 4670 acres, filled agricultural ditches, removed structures, and berms and also obtained easements or other necessary interests to improve flowway downstream of the weir. Lee County actually operates the weir at this time. The Governing Board revised the 2009 footprint of the CREW property. By FY11, the District will complete the land acquisitions and by FY2012 Construction should begin removing agricultural berms, etc.

**9. Overview of Regional Restoration Progress (Michael Duever, Sr. Scientist, Ext. 7685)**

Michael Duever, Senior Scientist, Everglades Restoration & Capital Projects, will give an overview of the Southwest Feasibility Study that began in 2000 (it has been a 10 year project) and the final report is scheduled for release in December 2011. The study is designed to identify environmental problems in the portion of the South Florida Water Management District west of the Everglades and the lands and management measures that would lead to improved hydrologic and environmental conditions for people and the natural ecosystems in southwest Florida by 2050. Constraints in southwest Florida are scattered throughout the whole area, rather than concentrated in one which makes the project complicated. The intent is to produce a document that will be called the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) that will be done in November with a final report in 2011.

Ms. Mac'Kie asked if this feasibility study would fall under the yellow book (restudy of CERP). Ms. Starnes reported 'No', because any feasibility study in the future would need to include 30% of a conceptual design in it and in order to complete this study a joint decision was made to rename the study, therefore, it was named Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) and now falls under the conceptual design.

### **Regulatory and Public Affairs**

#### **10. Overview of Numeric Nutrient Criteria (Damon Meiers, Division Director, Ext. 6876)**

Mr. Damon Meiers, Division Director, Stormwater Division, gave an overview of the Numeric Nutrient Criteria from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) schedule. The final rule for freshwater streams, rivers, springs and lakes is scheduled for November 14, 2010; the estuaries/coastal waters' final rule is scheduled in August 2012 and South Florida Canals final rule is scheduled for August 2012. Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Scientific Advisory Board schedule: submit documents in November 2010; long term goal is by summer 2011 either promulgate or submit to EPA. Moving forward, they will review final streams, rivers, lakes, springs rules, track potential FDEP implementation efforts, continue review of FDEP's estuarine/coastal waters criteria development, and coordinate with EPA's Scientific Advisory Board.

### **Operations and Maintenance**

#### **11. Big Cypress Basin Operations & Maintenance 2010 Year in Review (Stephen Ladd, Director, Big Cypress Basin Field Operations, Ext. 7811)**

Mr. Stephen Ladd, Director, Big Cypress Basin Field Operations, gave an overview of the 2010 year in review. His staff consists of 13 full time employees under a budget of \$2.5 million and maintains 162 miles of canal and 46 water control structures. Under administration, staff completed all performance reviews and plans on time. Under structure and canal maintenance, staff performed miscellaneous and electrical preventive maintenance activities. Under fleet maintenance, staff performed unscheduled and scheduled equipment repairs. Contractors assigned to vegetation management treated submersed, aquatic and terrestrial vegetation, along with removing trees along 18.25 miles of canals. In house staff also treated a total of 364 acres of aquatic, terrestrial and submersed vegetation.

### **Standard Business**

#### **12. Public Comment**

## Staff Reports

### **13. Business Reports**

Mr. Rich Sands, Director, Business Performance Management Operations, gave a quick overview of the Big Cypress Basin Weekly Report that indicated that Big Cypress Basin's overall burn rate was 95%. Mr. Sands also indicated that the Board members will receive the weekly report by way of Clarence Tears' email.

Mr. Sorey requested that executive comments be added to the report when necessary.

### **14. Financial Report**

### **15. Hydrologic Report**

Mr. Tears reported that the rains stopped earlier this year, in September; therefore, the structures were changed over to dry season operation.

Mr. Ladd also reported that the Basin went from wet to dry season in 12 hours. He also added that a comment was added to his board report that highlighted due to a lightening strike, they spent \$30,000 for repairs in the control room and tower.

### **16. Staff Reports**

- Big Cypress Basin Service Center - Clarence Tears
- Big Cypress Basin Field Operations - Stephen Ladd

### **17. Board Comment**

Mr. Sorey congratulated Mr. Tears and the Basin staff on the management in the Basin with respect to the reported figures from the weekly report.

## Adjournment

**18. Adjourn**

**The next Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 10, 2010 with a Retreat to follow at the Big Cypress Basin Training Center, 6089 Janes Lane, Naples, Florida 34109.**

Please note that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above cited meeting or hearing, it will be necessary to provide a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made by a certified court reporter. Persons with disabilities who need assistance may contact Kathleen Tetrault, (239) 263-7615, at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting to make appropriate arrangements. Those persons desiring more information or those wishing to submit written or physical evidence may contact Kathleen Tetrault, Big Cypress Basin, 2660 Horseshoe Drive N, Naples, Florida 34104, (239) 263-7615.

Mr. Dauray adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m.

---

Charles Dauray,  
Big Cypress Basin Chairman

---

Noah Standridge,  
Big Cypress Basin, Secretary

(Corporate Seal)